



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

April 21, 2024

Front Cover Artwork

Vincent van Gogh, *Almond Blossoms*. Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, February 1890. Oil on canvas, 73.3 cm x 92.4 cm (28.858 in. x 36.378 in.). Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Vincent van Gogh Foundation). In the public domain. Accessed 03/28/2024 at <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/collection/s0176V1962>.

Large blossom branches like this against a blue sky were one of Van Gogh's favorite subjects. Almond trees flower early in the spring making them a symbol of new life. Van Gogh borrowed the subject, the bold outlines and the positioning of the tree in the picture plane from Japanese printmaking.

The painting was a gift for his brother Theo and sister-in-law Jo, who had just had a baby son, Vincent Willem. In the letter announcing the new arrival, Theo wrote: 'As we told you, we'll name him after you, and I'm making the wish that he may be as determined and as courageous as you.' Unsurprisingly, it was this work that remained closest to the hearts of the Van Gogh family. Vincent Willem went on to found the Van Gogh Museum.

<https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/collection/s0176V1962>



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) desires to be a welcoming, grace-filled, all-nations community of Jesus Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. We seek to love God and our neighbor as we make disciples of Jesus Christ who are learning to *worship God, proclaim Christ, and love others.*

Preparing to Worship God

Welcome

Welcome to Hershey PCA! We are glad to have you join with us in the worship of God through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

Thank you to all those who participate in making this worship service possible (worship service participants may include in alphabetical order): Ephraim Church (leading worship and violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Keith Dolon (sound), Dave Eakin (vocals), Peter Gible (viola), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Jared Salyards (piano), and Don Wood (vocals).

A **Nursery** for children age infant through 3 years old is provided in Room 110.

Junior Church for children aged 4-Grade 3 is held in Room 111 during the sermon and communion time. Children are dismissed during the hymn before the sermon and will return to their parents during the final hymn.

Today's Communion Servers are Nick Yingst and Brad Weaver.

Prelude

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Psalm 57:5,9-11

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

...

⁹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.

¹⁰ For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

Light Text = Read by Leader

Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

Come, Thou Almighty King

1. Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing,
 2. Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword,
 3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4. To the great One in Three e - ter - nal prais - es be,

help us to praise. Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour. Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in
 hence ev - er - more. His sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in

to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Word suc - cess; Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

The Nicene Creed

We confess our common faith today with the Nicene Creed, a summary of the Bible's teaching about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of the Spirit. From the Trinity Hymnal: "The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325), and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon (451). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ."

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,*
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic** and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen

* The term "very God of very God" means that our Lord Jesus Christ is "true God from true God."

** "Catholic" here means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples." It is confessed in recognition of the believing church throughout the world; it is not a reference to what is today called the *Roman Catholic Church*.

***Gloria Patri**

**Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost:
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be,
world with-out end. A-men, a-men.**

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Ephesians 5:15-21

Today's reading continues to explore in Scripture the Third Commandment that forbids taking the Lord's name in vain (Exodus 20:7). This passage urges us to use your voices to praise God.

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Ephesians 2:10-13

The Declaration of Pardon announces that the Scriptures promise forgiveness to all those who repent, confessing their sins to God and putting their faith in Jesus Christ.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of April 21-27, 2024

Intercession for the World:

- **The Hershey Community:** Derry Township Supervisor Michael Corado
- **Civil Government:** PA State Senator John DiSanto
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** Ukraine
- **Unreached People Group:** Batahin of Sudan

Population: 307,000; Language: Arabic, Sudanese; Religion: Islam

Unreached people groups make up 42.4% of the world's population (approximately 3.4 billion persons). In these people groups, there are "few evangelicals and few who identify as Christians." There is "little, if any, history of Christianity" within the people group. See www.joshuaproject.net. "...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:38)

Intercession for the Church (God's People):

- **Health issues:** Tim G.
- **Those Who Serve in Our Local Church:** Location Task Force

Our Denomination (PCA): Second City Church, Harrisburg, PA
(A sister church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)

- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:**
Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)

The Lord's Prayer: We will close with this version of the Lord's Prayer in unison.

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

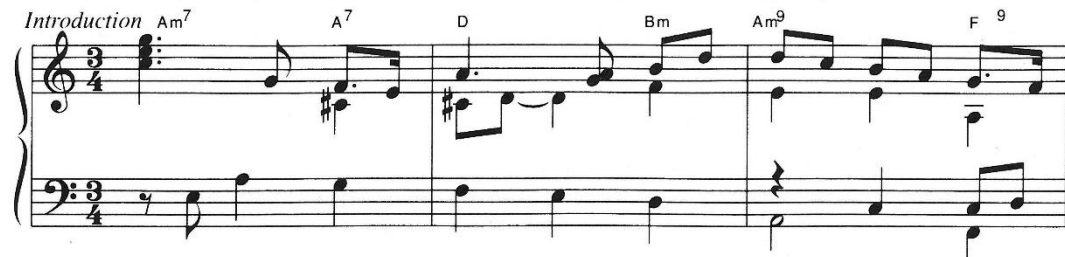
Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

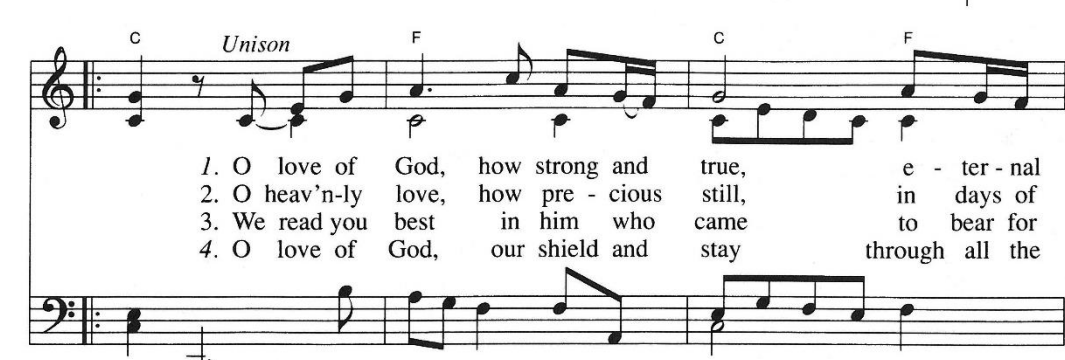
During this song, children from 4 years old to 3rd grade are dismissed
to attend Junior Church in Room 111.

*Song of Preparation: O Love of God, How Strong and True

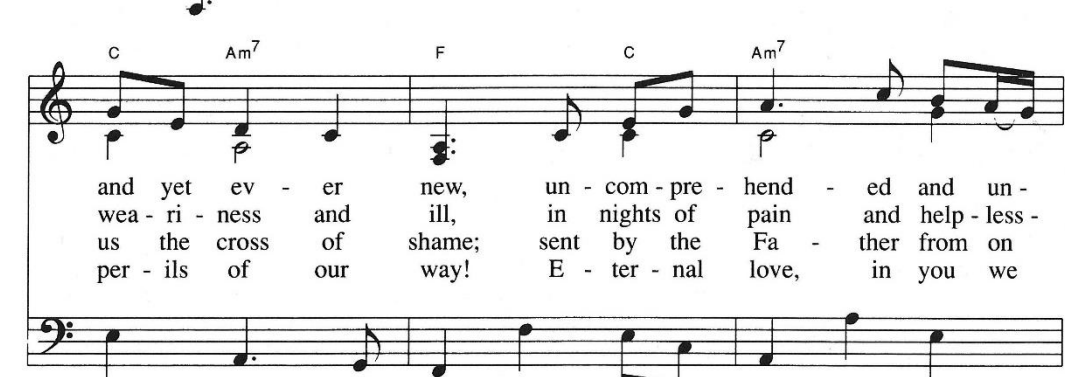
Introduction Am⁷ A⁷ D Bm Am⁹ F⁹



Unison C F C F



1. O love of God, how strong and true, e - ter - nal
2. O heav'n-ly love, how pre - cious still, in days of
3. We read you best in him who came to bear for
4. O love of God, our shield and stay through all the



and yet ev - er new, un - com - pre - hend - ed and un -
wea - ri - ness and ill, in nights of pain and help - less -
us the cross of shame; sent by the Fa - ther from on
per - ils of our way! E - ter - nal love, in you we



bought, be - yond all knowl - edge and all thought! O love of
ness, to heal, to com - fort, and to bless! O wide - em -
high, our life to live, our death to die. We read your
rest, for - ev - er safe, for - ev - er blest. We will ex -

Dm⁷ Gm Dm G F C
 God, how deep and great, far deep - er than man's deep - est
 brac - ing, won - drous love! We read you in the sky a -
 pow'r to bless and save, e'en in the dark - ness of the
 alt you, God and King, and we will ev - er praise your

F C Dm⁷ G⁷ C F
 hate; self - fed, self - kin - dled like the light, change-less, e -
 bove, we read you in the earth be - low, in seas that
 grave; still more in res - ur - rec - tion light, we read the
 name; we will ex - tol you ev - 'ry day, and ev - er -

C F G C Am⁷ A⁷ D Bm Am⁹ F⁹
 ter - nal, in - fi - nite.
 swell, and streams that flow.
 ful - ness of your might.
 more your praise pro - claim.

Final ending | C C⁷ Am F C
 C C⁷ Am F C

Listening to God's Word

***Prayer for Illumination**

In this prayer, we ask the Lord to open our eyes and hearts to his Word.

***Reading of Scripture:**

Isaiah 55:3-5

*Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Repentance & Faith (10): A Series in Isaiah 51-55

Sermon:

The Everlasting Covenant

Today's Text: Isaiah 55:3-5

Pastor David Kertland

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Prayer of Application

The sermon concludes with a prayer asking the Lord to help us to be those who listen to his word and obey it. "...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)

Receiving Provision from God

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation & Warning

Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) welcomes to receive the Holy Supper all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and obey Christ, and who are members in good standing of an evangelical church that proclaims the gospel or who have been approved by our Session after indicating a desire to participate (BCO 58-4). Children should await communicant membership before participating.

Let this table, and our communion together, point you to Jesus—to hold out your empty and faltering hands to him, to receive grace from him, to allow him to feed and strengthen you, and to remind you that, if you are in Christ, He is *for you* and *will help you* as you seek to follow him this week.

If you are not a believer in Jesus today, we are glad that you are here with us this morning! We invite you to stay and observe this part of the service, but ask that you do not participate. It is a celebration of the Christian's union with the risen Jesus. As the bread and wine are received by the congregation, we invite you to cry out to Jesus and pray the following prayer (or one like it):

Prayer of Belief: "Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared to admit, but in Jesus I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you and rest on you alone for my salvation."

Have you prayed this prayer for the first time this morning? If so, let someone near you know! Also, feel free to talk with our pastor who can suggest ways for you to take next steps in the faith.

Words of Institution:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

"[T]he Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

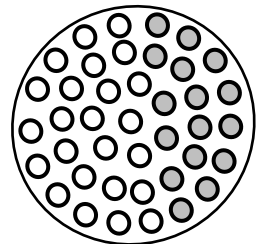
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Prayer

Receiving of the Elements

About the elements: Our communion servers will be handing out the elements, which are in two stacked communion cups. The top cups have the juice or wine, and the bottom cups all have gluten-free bread. As a server comes to you, please take a cup of your preference. The clear cups are filled with grape juice; the purple-tinted cups are filled with wine.



white circles = grape juice
gray circles = wine

Prayer

Receiving God's Blessing

***Song of Dedication & Service:**

Across the Lands

1. You're the Word of God the Fa-ther from be-fore the world be - gan;
2. Yet You left the gaze of an-gels, came to seek and save the lost,
3. With a shout You rose vic - to-rious, wrest-ing vic - t'ry from the grave

eve - ry star and eve - ry plan-et has been fash-ioned by Your hand.
and ex-changed the joy of heav-en for the an-guish of a cross.
and as - cend - ed in - to heav-en, lead-ing cap - tives in Your way.

All cre - a - tion holds to-gether by the pow - er of Your voice;
With a prayer You fed the hun-gry, with a word You calmed the sea,
Now You stand be - fore the Fa-ther, in - ter - ced - ing for Your own;

let the skies de-clare Your glo-ry; let the land and seas re - joice!
yet how si - lent - ly You suf-ered, that the guilt - y may go free!
from each tribe and tongue and na-tion You are lead-ing sin-ners home!

You're the Au - thor of cre - a - tion, You're the Lord of eve - ry

man, and Your cry of love rings out a - cross the lands.

TEXT and MUSIC: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

© 2002 Thankyou Music (PRS) (adm. worldwide at CapitolCMGPublishing.com excluding Europe which is adm. by Integritymusic.com) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

God's Blessing

*Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*Postlude

To our guests this morning: We are very glad that you have joined us for worship today. We hope you can stay a little while for conversation with our pastor and other Hershey PCA members and friends.

After the service, greet someone you don't know. If you see someone sitting or standing alone, welcome them in the name of Christ! The time after worship is a great time for mutual, one-another ministry in Christ, feel free to sit down with someone for conversation or prayer.

* Congregation standing



“The King Is Coming!”

Mark your calendars for our medieval-themed **Vacation Bible School** program, Monday through Thursday, **June 24-27** from **5:30-7:30 PM**. Children aged 3 through completed Grade 5 will participate in Bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks. Invitations will be available for you to give out to friends and family.

Today's Service Information

- 1) **Artwork:** Vincent van Gogh, *Almond Blossoms*. 1890. Oil on canvas, 2'5" x 3". Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam. In the public domain. <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/collection/s0176V1962>.
- 2) **Music:** “Come, Thou Almighty King” (101) and “O Love of God, How Strong and True” (81) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). “Across the Lands” (38) is reprinted from *Sing the Wonders: Hymns and Psalms for the Church*, 2nd ed. (Jupiter, FL: Grace Immanuel Bible Church, 2018). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes: Page 2:** information about cover painting: <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/collection/s0176V1962>. Various quotes describing worship elements are from: *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995). Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.
- 4) **Note from the Pastor:** Along with the Hebrew and English texts, a variety of commentaries and study aids have been consulted in preparing this and other sermons from the book of Isaiah, including: the insights, sermons, and writings of John Calvin, Bob Fyall, Matthew Henry, J. Alec Motyer, Graham S. Ogden, Raymond C. Ortlund, Jr., Shalom M. Paul, Gary V. Smith, Jan Sterk, Barry G. Webb, Edward J. Young, and others. Not every commentator or pastor listed is consulted for each sermon, yet many of the insights belong to these and others, while the form and specific use of the Scripture text along with any errors that follow from them are my own.
- 5) The **“Invitation to the Lord’s Supper”** and the communion page information was, in part, modified from the practice of Redeemer PCA in NYC (2008) and Westminster PCA in Lancaster, PA (2015).



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

is a member congregation of the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery
of the Presbyterian Church in America (www.pcanet.org).



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

Address: 1521 Sand Hill Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036

To contact the church office,
office@hersheypca.com or (717) 489-1535.

hersheypca.com